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New Program Offers Support for Emerging Jazz Musicians in Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH, PA (August 11, 2011) – Rising jazz artists, between the ages of 18 and 39, can now apply for up to \$400 in financial assistance as a resident artist of **JAZZSPACE**, a **new program** that supports the professional and personal development of emerging jazz artists in Pittsburgh. In 2011, its inaugural year, artists selected for the program will be expected to perform in at least one sponsored event during the 2011-12 season in exchange for the financial assistance and promotional support provided by the program.

WHAT: 2011 JAZZSPACE Resident Artist Application

DEADLINE: Monday, September 12, 2011

APPLICATION and MORE INFO: <http://www.jazzspace.com/program.php>

In addition to the age requirement, an applicant must be a resident of Allegheny County and must not be enrolled as a full-time music student. “The thing about JAZZSPACE is that it’s not for students,” said founder and director Maggie Johnson. “It’s for adult musicians, under 40, who could use some support to keep pursuing their passion.”

Several well-established Pittsburgh musicians will serve on the 2011 selection panel for choosing this year’s resident artists. These include **saxophonist Tony Campbell, vocalist Etta Cox, and bassist Jeff Grubbs**. Applicants will be evaluated on musical skill, character, and professional ambition as demonstrated through a simple application that includes submitting music clips and answering three short essay questions.

Nine-year Pittsburgh resident and jazz vocalist **Maggie Johnson** founded the program in 2009 after receiving feedback from a study conducted at Carnegie Mellon’s Heinz College. Convinced there was an unmet need for practical support of Pittsburgh’s future jazz legends, she began building the program while working full-time, first at Pittsburgh Opera, and now at the Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council where she serves as marketing director. Before landing in Pittsburgh, she worked with the late Dr. Billy Taylor at Kennedy Center Jazz (*Betty Carter Jazz Ahead* program). Other Pittsburgh nonprofits she has worked with include MCG Jazz, the August Wilson Center, and Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.

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